

said, 'You're no gentleman.' Well, I don't want to be, if I have got to get drunk in order to be one. I am told that it is a custom to close up bargains with a drink. I would go against the custom. I would keep the bargain open before I would close it up that way."

A Hopeful Sign. One of the hopeful signs of the times is the increased interest manifested in the study of the Bible. Never before was the Bible so universally and so systematically studied in this country as it is to-day. Men and women are seeking after the truth; they want to know what God teaches concerning man's past, present and future. They are no longer content with the opinions of men. Everywhere classes are being organized for a more thorough study of the Word of God. Recently a Council of Seventy has been organized, consisting of Biblical scholars of various colleges and theological seminaries. The object of the organization is to interest people in the historical study of the Bible. The leader of the movement is Dr. Harper, President of Chicago University, and this fact is in itself sufficient to assure its success.

Qualifications for Preachers. The "Christian" contains the following sensible remarks on the qualifications of ministers:

Good character, good religion, a good knowledge of the Bible and good common sense, with gifts enough to teach and grace enough to learn, make a very good outfit for a Christian worker and a preacher of the Gospel.

A man who lacks any of these qualifications may understand all mysteries and yet be like a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

The Lord would have his disciples go everywhere preaching the word; and he knows how to fit men for this work and thrust them out into the field to do it.

"It is a somewhat remarkable fact," says the *Christian Advocate*, "that in writing to Timothy, St. Paul has very little to say about the specified duties of the ministerial office, but deals very fully with the qualifications of the men who occupy the office. If the men themselves are sound in character and strong in faith, they may be safely trusted to look after the duties as they come up. It is also noteworthy that the qualifications upon which the apostle insists as essential are just the plain, homely, every day virtues that are needful in all the callings of life. Let those of our readers who preach the Gospel turn to the Epistles in question and read them once more in the light of these statements."

A Sensible Will. It is not likely that there will be much "quibbling" over this clause in the will of the late George Bliss of New York City: "To Yale College, at New Haven, to be applied at the discretion of the President \$60,000." On this clause the *Outlook* comments as follows:

It is the rarest thing in the world for an educational institution to receive money in this way, and yet there is probably not a college or university but needs such gifts more than any other kind. Too often the announcement of a bequest brings quite as much anxiety as satisfaction, the building provided for not being the one most needed, or the fund for the endowment of a new professorship being inadequate; or the restrictions surrounding some other benefaction being such as to defeat its object. The giver who turns over his money to be used at the discretion of the governing body is the giver that is most welcome.

Sisters' S. C. E.

STATE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Delivered at the S. S. C. E. County Convention, Meyersdale, Pa., Dec. 31, by Mrs. M. C. MEYERS.

Dear sisters and friends of the Sister's Society of Christian Endeavor: I appear before you to-night in the interest of our beloved society. Thanking our kind heavenly Father for past blessings and success, we press forward. When we (sisters) consider our former position as church workers, the few opportunities that were afforded us, and the small amount of experience we have, and then see some of the good we have accomplished since we were organized into a society, we are encouraged to go on in the good work so well begun.

Our name indicates our mission, our purpose: Sister's Society of Christian Endeavor—a band of Christian women united for the purpose of doing Christian work, working for Christ in his vineyard.

The object of our society is to do general and local mission and church work; to raise funds for mission purposes, and to promote Christian education and spiritual growth.

Four years ago there were six societies. Now there are eighty-seven, with a membership of over three thousand. During the last two years we have realized from dues, earnings and free-will offerings, over four thousand dollars. Our National Constitution requires each member to pay (into the National Treasury) twenty cents per year for mission purposes. This includes the support of the Theological department of Ashland University. These remittances together with the pledge money solicited by Sister Grossnickle, with the name—spread also by sister Laura, with the sales table at National Conference, these articles were given as free-will offerings by the local societies and individuals.

These have paid the following: Twenty-five dollars to help the Beaver City church, Neb. Eight dollars towards a protracted meeting at Bloomers, O. Forty dollars to Brother Bowman of Philadelphia, for work done in New Jersey, where he organized a church. Twelve hundred dollars paid to the support of the Theological chair of Ashland University. Thirty-seven dollars have been paid to brother W. C. Perry, to pay the tuition for two terms for three theological students. We require these brethren to preach one sermon for each dollar thus received, at some mission point or needy church. In this way we do a two-fold mission work with a small amount of means.

We have responded to a call from Washington, with ten dollars per month for an indefinite length of time. We still have some funds in the National Treasury. Sisters, send in your mites, so we may have a bank account. We should be glad to help build up a church in the city of Washington, our National Capitol. We should have missions in many more cities. If we want to reach the masses, we must go where the masses are. We are proud, and justly so of the young brethren who have been in the theological class. They have proven themselves to be noble, worthy Christian workers, an honor to the church and society. Some are pastors, others are laboring in the interests of our school. One of them is located in our own State, and has charge of the Moxham and Rosedale churches, and during a series of revival meetings held recently in the Rosedale church, he was instrumental in God's hand in bringing sixty-nine precious souls from the ranks of Satan into the fold of God. These are results of some of the work done by the National organization. Much of which is due to the untiring efforts of sister Laura Grossnickle, and as a noble, self-denying consecrated Christian worker, she merits our appreciation and imitation. Again I appeal to the local societies to co-operate with the national worker, for without your financial assistance we can do very little. Over seven-eighths of the money realized by the local societies is used for the benefit of the local church or is in the local treasury.

Financially we have done well. Let us do much more. I believe we still have done very little compared with what we can do. There is no limit to the possibilities for doing good. We will soon need a theological fund; new missions will open to us, the missions we have must be supported for some time to come. The Chicago Mission is looking to us for help. And then but we can not bear to think of it in the heathen lands, in the vast domain of China alone fourteen hundred heathen die in every hour. And while we are so pleasantly engaged in our Master's work, till the time for our Conference to adjourn, the short period of about twenty-six hours, thirty-six thousand four hundred precious souls will be ushered into eternity to meet God of whom they have never heard. On an average there are seventy natural births to one spiritual birth. Truly the field is white to harvest. Oh, can we not have more laborers? And yet in the face of these solemn facts we see so many people that can find nothing to do.

As new calls come to us for help let us not feel it a burden or an imposition but rejoice rather for an opportunity to assist